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Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1876 (2009), by which the Council requested me to submit a written report every four months on the progress made in establishing the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) and in implementing the resolution. The report covers developments since my previous report (S/2009/552), dated 22 October 2009 and covering the period until 15 February 2010, with a particular focus on efforts to normalize the functioning of State institutions and on preparations for the national conference designed to promote reconciliation in the country.

II. Political developments

2. The period under review was relatively calm, as State institutions endeavoured to implement the Government's programme. The President of Guinea-Bissau, Malam Bacai Sanha, issued two decrees on 28 October 2009 changing the structure of the Government and appointing a new cabinet that has been streamlined from 21 ministers to 18. The cabinet, which includes five women, was sworn in on 29 October.

3. In his address at the opening of the 2009-2010 legislative session held on 3 November 2009, President Sanha called for a national stability pact and for the revision of the Constitution. He also called for a comprehensive reform of the State and its institutions, beyond the current focus on public administration and the security sector. In addition, he called for the establishment of a council of traditional leaders.

4. On 3 November, President Sanha appointed Amine Saad as Prosecutor General of Guinea-Bissau, to succeed Luis Manuel Cabral. In December 2009, the new Prosecutor General opened an investigation into the alleged involvement of senior officials of the Ministry of Fisheries in corrupt practices, illegal concessions of fishing licences and financial mismanagement. Various senior officials, including the former Minister of Fisheries, were questioned during the investigations.

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Subsequently, on 15 February 2010, the former Minister was relieved of his new duties as the Minister of Agriculture.

5. On 14 January 2010, the Council of Ministers reviewed the audit report on the Customs Department in Bissau, where more than CFAF 1 billion (approximately $2.2 million) was allegedly unaccounted for. The Council recommended that the Minister of Finance validate the audit report and, if necessary, refer the matter to the Office of the Prosecutor General. The Council also called on the Inspectorates of the Ministries of Finance and Commerce to join forces to fight fraud and tax evasion.

6. In his New Year's address to the nation, President Sanha called for change and a move away from the negative culture of machismo and mistrust to a culture of peace, knowledge, work and development. He underscored the need to restore trust among State institutions, based on the Constitution and strict respect for the principle of separation of powers, while maintaining interdependence and solidarity. President Sanha commended the Government for its efforts to fight corruption, drug trafficking and organized crime, and enumerated the indications of progress made with regard to security sector, public administration and fiscal reforms.

7. For its part, the National Assembly, on 23 November, discussed a report supposedly prepared and made public by the Military Information and Security Division of the Armed Forces General Staff. The report claimed that certain parliamentarians from the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) had posed a risk to internal stability and warned that internal divisions within PAIGC could poison relations between the Prime Minister, Carlos Gomes Junior, and President Sanha. Parliamentarians voiced concern about the role of military intelligence in politics, and the Prosecutor General called on those cited in the report to remain calm. On 30 November, he summoned the Director of Military Information who, at that time, also served as interim Deputy Director of State Information Services of the Ministry of Interior, to discuss the report.

8. Prior to the convening of the extraordinary session of the National Assembly to discuss the 2010 State budget, the Government, the PAIGC Central Committee and PAIGC parliamentarians held meetings to discuss their differences and to harmonize their positions. On 7 December, the National Assembly approved the 2010 State budget by 61 votes in favour, with 21 abstentions from the Social Renewal Party (PRS) of former President Mohamed Yalá.

9. The National Assembly continued its efforts towards organizing the national conference on the theme "Towards the consolidation of peace and development". Responding to concerns about the need to make the national conference as inclusive as possible, the technical committee established to prepare for the event was enlarged to include members from civil society organizations. The technical committee met from 15 to 17 January 2010 to harmonize the National Assembly's initiative with other civil society dialogue initiatives. At the request of the Speaker of the National Assembly, two officers from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNIOGBIS are representing the United Nations in the technical committee and providing support, as appropriate. In addition, the Department of Political Affairs is in the process of deploying a dialogue and reconciliation consultant to UNIOGBIS to provide expertise in technical preparations for the national conference and the dialogue process as a whole.

10. Within the framework of the declaration of 2009 as the International Year of Reconciliation, UNOGBIS funded five cultural events, from 22 November to 12 December, in the towns of Mansôa, Canchungo, Buba and Bafatá, and in the capital, Bissau, highlighting respect and tolerance for diversity and reconciliation.

11. The *Voz di Paz* (Voice of Peace) participatory dialogue programme concluded the regional validation of the results of its 10-month grass-roots consultations held in 2008 in various areas of the country. The programme also organized a series of activities linked to the validation exercise within the armed forces. The results of the consultations were considered at a conference with the Guinea-Bissau diaspora in Lisbon in November 2009. Following identification of the most important causes of conflict in Guinea-Bissau, a new phase will be launched to focus on an in-depth study into these causes.

12. Within the framework of its project on building national capacities for dialogue and collaborative decision-making in Guinea-Bissau, UNDP organized a training workshop in Bissau from 16 to 20 November 2009 on ethics and reporting in sensitive environments for 19 national journalists. It also supported the establishment of a national youth platform for inter-ethnic dialogue and held a strategic planning workshop from 24 to 27 November to enable the platform to draw up an action plan for 2010.

III. Military aspects

13. On 28 December 2009, Bubo Na Tchuto returned clandestinely from the Gambia, where he had been in exile since his flight from Guinea-Bissau, following accusations of involvement in a coup attempt in August 2008. On the same day, the former Navy Chief entered United Nations premises uninvited and requested protection. He stated that he was fearing for his life and wanted to face justice to clear his name of accusations of plotting a coup. When contacted by the United Nations, the Government indicated that it lacked the capacity to try Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto, preferring instead to return him to the Gambia. The Government argued that his presence in the country could be disruptive to the efforts to maintain peace and stability in the country.

14. My Special Representative subsequently facilitated consultations between the national authorities and Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto, with a view to reaching an agreement on his voluntary and peaceful departure from the United Nations premises. On 8 January 2010, an agreement was signed between the United Nations and the national authorities. Under the terms of the agreement, both parties recognized their obligations under international law, including respect for the sovereignty of Guinea-Bissau, recognition of the responsibility of the Government for the promotion of the rule of law and due legal process, as well as the protection of fundamental freedoms and human rights. Consultations continue, under the facilitation of my Special Representative, between the Government delegation and Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto for the latter's voluntary departure from the United Nations compound.

15. The Chief of General Staff, Zamora Induta, and his Deputy, António N'djai, were sworn in on 27 October 2009. They were promoted from Navy Captain to Vice Admiral and from Colonel to Major General, respectively, to correspond to their new functions. At the swearing-in ceremony, President Sanha stressed that the new

military leadership needed to continue the process of building a modern and disciplined force that would be true to its republican ideals and be subordinate to the civilian authorities.

16. On regional security issues, a meeting on border issues between ministerial delegations from Guinea-Bissau and Senegal was held in Bissau on 23 October. The meeting was prompted by renewed fighting in the Senegalese region of Casamance, and the reported displacement of border markers along the demarcation line between the two countries. Both countries agreed to revive a joint cooperation commission and, among other measures, to create a joint commission to survey the demarcation line and ensure that the border markers were in place. A meeting of the joint commission scheduled for 7 January 2010 was postponed to a date yet to be announced.

17. On 25 November 2009, the Minister of Defence launched a pilot project for the collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons in Bairro Militar, the largest suburb in Bissau. The $60,000 pilot project, managed by the National Commission against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, is funded by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office for Disarmament Affairs, as well as the small arms programme of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). In addition, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) funded a two-day training workshop, from 19 to 20 November 2009, for 50 youth peace workers from Bairro Militar who were involved in an awareness-raising campaign on the pilot project. The ongoing pilot project, the first of its kind in an urban area, has garnered the support of key community leaders.

IV. Security sector reform

18. During the reporting period, progress was made to improve security sector reform coordination mechanisms. The Council of Ministers, in December 2009, approved key draft legal instruments prepared with the assistance of the European Union (EU) mission in support of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau. The approved documents included, among others, a draft bill on security sector reform and a decree on a pension fund for defence sector personnel. At the same time, the Ministries of Interior and Defence reached a compromise on the creation of a 1,700-strong new entity, with military status and police functions, called the "Guarda Nacional". The Speaker of the National Assembly has indicated to my Special Representative that the instruments will be discussed by the National Assembly in the first quarter of 2010. A draft pension fund scheme for defence sector personnel was approved by the Government on 6 November 2009, and a decree on the same matter was issued on 19 December. National stakeholders have initiated technical consultations on setting up a separate pension fund for security sector personnel.

19. At a meeting held on 27 November, the National Security Sector Reform Steering Committee decided to review the national security sector reform structures. The Inter-Ministerial Committee and the Steering Committee were maintained. However, the Technical Coordination Committee was formally abolished, and its functions have since been absorbed by a streamlined permanent secretariat, which will provide technical, organizational and administrative support to the Steering Committee. As part of the preparations for a security sector reform donor

conference to be held later in the year, a UNDP consultant has been providing technical support to the secretariat of the Steering Committee in order to start identifying key project categories. The Security Sector Reform Section of UNIOGBIS includes two security sector reform positions dedicated to assisting the Government and the permanent secretariat with planning, evaluation, review and implementation of a holistic security sector reform programme. In addition, the Security Sector Reform Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations will assist UNIOGBIS in the preparation of a strategic workplan to support national partners in security sector management.

20. A meeting of Guinea-Bissau's security sector reform international partners was held on 22 October at UNOGBIS headquarters to discuss ways of enhancing the coordination of international technical and financial support for the country's security sector reform process. The meeting agreed that UNIOGBIS, in close collaboration with the EU security sector reform mission and bilateral partners, would update and enhance an existing matrix on international support to security sector reform. The matrix is a useful coordination tool, which provides data on donor technical and financial support to the security sector reform programme and allows partners to identify existing technical and financial gaps in their support.

21. On 9 November, my Special Representative participated in an informal meeting in Brussels organized by EU, with representatives from the EU Council secretariat, the European Commission, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations. Participants reached a common understanding on security sector reform challenges and agreed on avenues for cooperation with international partners and mechanisms for coordinating EU/AU/United Nations support to Guinea-Bissau on security sector reform, within the scope of Security Council resolution 1876 (2009). The meeting was followed by a coordination meeting of the United Nations, EU and ECOWAS in Bissau on 17 November, at which participants agreed to enhance coordination through the adoption of a common approach on security sector reform issues in consultation with the national authorities.

22. A delegation from the European Council and the European Commission visited Guinea-Bissau from 30 November to 4 December 2009 to prepare a strategic analysis of the future EU cooperation framework, with a special focus on the security sector reform process. In early December, my Special Representative met with an EU/United Nations strategic review mission visiting Bissau. Discussions focused on the policy and technical aspects of a future EU/United Nations cooperation and coordination framework on security sector reform, including scenarios for possible complementarities of efforts beyond 31 May 2010, when the mandate of the EU security sector reform mission is scheduled to end.

23. The Portuguese technical cooperation mission provided basic training to 60 officers from the Public Order Police and to 160 officers from the Judiciary Police in October 2009. Additionally, 20 officers from the Judiciary Police were sent to Brazil in November for further training, and another 40 officers participated in a training workshop on high-risk investigations, organized by the Government of France in December. UNOGBIS conducted a training workshop on human rights, code of conduct and the use of force for 18 police agents in the region of Tombali on 27 October 2009. Another 15 police officers participated in a seminar on protection of women and children, organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on 17 and 18 December 2009, with technical support from the UNOGBIS police unit.

V. Drug trafficking and organized crime

24. Although no major drug seizures were reported in Guinea-Bissau during the reporting period, unconfirmed reports continued to suggest that smuggling might be continuing by air and sea through the islands of the Bijagós archipelago, which currently lacks law enforcement capacity and infrastructure, as well as an effective means of communication and transportation with the Guinea-Bissau mainland.

25. Within the framework of its assistance in the implementation of the Anti-Narcotics Operational Plan 2007-2010 to counter drug trafficking and organized crime in Guinea-Bissau, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continued to provide support for the establishment of a specialized intelligence and criminal analysis unit within the Judiciary Police. It also continued to support the Judiciary Police logistically, including by furnishing its new premises. Twenty officers from the Judiciary Police were trained in investigation techniques from mid-October to December 2009, within the framework of the partnership between the Office, the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Brazilian Federal Police. Information technology and office equipment were delivered to the Ministry of Justice in November to equip criminal courts in Bissau and the regions. A meeting of international partners and national authorities was held on 11 December in Bissau to review and adapt the assistance portfolio of the Office for Guinea-Bissau. On 7 December 2009, the Office launched a new project in partnership with the Government of Brazil, aimed at establishing a training centre for Guinea-Bissau's internal security agencies to promote technical capacity-building and police integration. It is envisaged that the centre will train officers from other African Portuguese-speaking countries.

26. Representatives of the United Nations Office in West Africa, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Criminal Police Organization conducted an assessment in Guinea-Bissau from 1 to 15 February 2010. This mission was initiated as part of the West Africa Coast Initiative and in support of the 2008-2011 ECOWAS regional action plan to fight illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse. The team undertook an evaluation of national capabilities, legal frameworks and explored the possibility of creating a transnational crime unit in Guinea-Bissau.

VI. Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission

27. During the period under review, the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Peacebuilding Commission undertook the first annual progress review on the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding. On 8 February 2010, the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission adopted a report on the review (PBC/4/GNB/1), which had been initially adopted by the National Peacebuilding Steering Committee on 10 December 2009. Prior to its adoption, the draft report was discussed with representatives of the international community in Guinea-Bissau, members of the National Assembly and civil society, including religious organizations. The report describes progress in implementing mutually agreed commitments and includes a set of recommendations on the next steps.

28. From 18 to 20 January 2010, a delegation of the Peacebuilding Commission visited Guinea-Bissau, led by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the

United Nations, Regina Maria Dunlop, and comprising representatives of Benin, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Uruguay, and the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations. The aim of the visit was to continue the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission with the Government of Guinea-Bissau and key national and international stakeholders. The visit also allowed for a joint assessment with stakeholders of progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding, the confirmation of priorities identified by the Government for the short term and discussions on the resource mobilization needs of the country, including recommendations for a second allocation of funds from the Peacebuilding Fund.

29. During its three-day visit, the delegation met with President Sanha, the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister and key members of the Government, as well as representatives of civil society organizations, the international community, the United Nations country team, ECOWAS, the African Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. The delegation also participated in a meeting of the National Peacebuilding Steering Committee. The conclusions of the visit were presented to the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on 8 February 2010.

30. Implementation of the projects supported by the Peacebuilding Fund is on track. A project to enhance professional training and employment of youth completed the training of 240 young people on business start-ups and management in the towns of Bissau, Cacheu, Buba and Gabú. UNDP and various banking institutions are currently finalizing modalities for microcredit financing for the business projects generated by the trainees. The training of another batch of 160 young people in the towns of Bissau, Gabú, Cacheu and Quinara has started. A project to rehabilitate selected prisons in Guinea-Bissau, including regional prisons in the towns of Bafatá and Mansôa, is in progress. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is currently preparing the bidding documents for the rehabilitation of the prison in the town of Canchungo. On 10 December, the National Peacebuilding Steering Committee endorsed a reformulation of the project for the rehabilitation of military barracks. The reformulated project envisages the entire rehabilitation of three military barracks, instead of the partial rehabilitation of 10 military barracks.

VII. Economic and social aspects

31. The economic and fiscal situation in Guinea-Bissau, although fragile, showed some gains that were consolidated in the last quarter of 2009. The international financial crisis impacted on the economic growth rate, which fell by 0.4 per cent compared to 2008. However, this was offset by the record volume of cashew exports and improved performance in the construction subsector, contributing to an annual growth of 2.9 per cent of gross domestic product in 2009. The annual growth rate for 2010 is projected at 3.5 per cent. The improvement of fiscal policy execution allowed the Government to keep up with the payment of current salaries, primarily from internal revenues. In January 2010, the Government announced that it would clear civil service salary arrears from 2008 and part of the stock of internal debt. At the end of 2009, the country received significant budgetary support from key international partners, amounting to approximately $68 million.

32. International financial institutions continued their engagement with the authorities. A mission from IMF visited Guinea-Bissau from 5 to 18 November 2009 to assess the country's economic performance under the 2009 Emergency Post-Conflict Assistance programme, review the fiscal plans for 2010 and discuss the possibility of a medium-term arrangement with IMF. IMF subsequently dispatched another mission to Guinea-Bissau, from 12 to 27 January 2010, to conduct consultations and continue discussions on a medium-term economic programme. It was announced on 26 January that IMF and the Government had reached a preliminary agreement on a medium-term economic programme under the IMF Extended Credit Facility, which is now awaiting endorsement by the IMF Executive Board in mid-March 2010. The target for 2010 is for Guinea-Bissau to reach the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which would lead to debt relief of $700 million.

33. In October 2009, the World Bank conducted its country portfolio performance review for Guinea-Bissau. In December, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and EU concluded the public expenditure management and financial accountability review, which includes aspects related to procurement reforms. The World Bank continued to provide technical and financial support for a study on public-private partnership for the rehabilitation of the Port of Bissau. An African Development Bank mission visited Guinea-Bissau from 5 to 26 November 2009 and again from 24 to 28 January 2010 to consult with the authorities, including on the Bank's portfolio and budget support programme to the country.

34. Prices of essential goods dropped significantly as a result of lower international food and petroleum prices, as well as the Government's policy of maintaining low prices for essential commodities. Trade unions in the health and education sectors threatened to go on strike on several occasions during the reporting period, primarily to claim the payment of salary arrears. The school year began in mid-October 2009, which is an improvement as compared to previous years. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided about $750,000 worth of education supplies and materials to the Ministry of Education.

35. In order to prepare for the potential humanitarian impact of the political crisis in neighbouring Guinea, the United Nations collaborated closely with the Government in national humanitarian preparedness activities. Four joint missions to the regions bordering Guinea were conducted between October and December 2009, with the participation of the Government, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. The aim of the missions was to monitor the situation, ensure national and local preparedness and enhance local capacities. In the absence of a national contingency plan, provisions for the Government were integrated in the inter-agency contingency plan in order to ensure an efficient and effective distribution of roles and responsibilities. The United Nations Office for West Africa has been providing frequent information to UNIOGBIS on the situation in Guinea to assist with the inter-agency contingency plan.

36. The United Nations is also supporting the Government in establishing a national civil protection service and a disaster risk reduction platform. A national risk assessment workshop was held in November 2009, and the United Nations country team supported the drafting of the legal framework for the national civil protection service. In addition, United Nations agencies have continued to support national epidemic preparedness, particularly for cholera, the influenza pandemic and dengue fever. In this regard, through funding from the European Commission

Humanitarian Aid department, UNICEF conducted an assessment of national early warning systems and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes to respond to potential cholera outbreaks. UNICEF also provided vaccines for the national immunization programme and equipped every health centre in the country with refrigerators operated by solar power.

VIII. Rule of law and human rights aspects

37. Parliamentarians and former Ministers who were cited in a State Information Services communiqué on 5 June 2009 for alleged involvement in a coup plot, while outside the country, returned to Bissau on 16 November and were questioned at the National Assembly by the national commission of inquiry investigating the alleged 4 to 5 June 2009 plot. The investigation has focused solely on the alleged coup and is not covering the killings of Baciro Dabó and Hélder Proença, both of whom were parliamentarians.

38. Four people, including a former Air Force Chief of Staff, General Manuel Melciades Fernandes, are still being held by the military without charge, in connection with the bomb attack that killed the late Armed Forces Chief of General Staff, General Batista Tagme Na Waie, on 1 March 2009. My Special Representative and the Special Representative of ECOWAS held further discussions with the Prime Minister in Guinea-Bissau to finalize proposals for international support to the national commissions of inquiry investigating the assassinations of President João Bernardo Vieira and General Tagme, as well as those of the former Minister of Territorial Administration, Baciro Dabó, and the former Minister of Defence, Hélder Proença, who were killed on 5 June 2009. The national authorities are expected to provide specific details on the kind of technical and financial support that is necessary to complete the investigations.

39. The Human Rights Section of UNOGBIS, in partnership with UNDP, supported the Government of Guinea-Bissau in the process of drafting the national report on human rights, which is due for consideration at the eighth session of the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council, to be held in Geneva in May 2010. UNICEF provided financial and technical support for the preparation of the second periodic Government report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The alternative report by non-governmental organizations on the rights of the child in Guinea-Bissau was also prepared following a participatory process involving 12 national non-governmental organizations, consultations at the country level and the active participation of children. Both reports were sent to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva on 8 December 2009.

40. Within the framework of the International Human Rights Day celebrations held on 10 December 2009, UNOGBIS, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the National Commission for Human Rights, organized several activities aimed at raising national awareness on human rights issues in Guinea-Bissau, focusing on discrimination against vulnerable groups, such as women, children, migrants and people with disabilities. In addition, UNOGBIS and UNDP supported six "Assisting communities together" projects of civil society organizations aimed at addressing the problem of female genital mutilation and child trafficking, and at encouraging the voluntary participation of civil society in human rights promotion and protection.

IX. Implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008)

41. From 8 to 10 December 2009, UNDP supported the organization of a workshop on leadership skills development, providing training for women parliamentarians and women civil society leaders who are members of the national Women's Political Platform.

42. On 24 and 25 November 2009, UNOGBIS supported the national Institute of Women and Children in organizing a workshop for 30 civil society organizations to promote the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The workshop also focused on enhancing compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and promoting civil society participation in the Convention implementation process. The meeting recommended wide dissemination of the Committee report, speeding up the elaboration of the national policy on gender equality and equity and adoption of legislation against gender-based violence and female genital mutilation. The United Nations Gender Thematic Working Group is supporting the Institute of Women and Children's capacity-building process for police officers aimed at implementing national and international norms for the protection of women's human rights and the prevention of violence against women. On 17 and 18 December, 20 police officers and representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Health participated in a training course, with a view to integrating these norms in their programmes.

43. On 11 December, under the joint UNFPA/UNICEF programme to accelerate efforts to end female genital mutilation, the Institute of Women and Children presented the national strategy and action plan to put an end to female genital mutilation. UNICEF provided support to the fourth session of the Children's Parliament held on 4 and 5 December at the National Assembly, where young leaders advocated for legislation against female genital mutilation and child trafficking. UNIOGBIS and UNICEF are exploring integrated approaches to prevent and investigate the trafficking of children. In addition, the design of model police stations, as part of UNIOGBIS support to security sector reform, includes special premises to handle cases of violence against children and other vulnerable groups.

X. Staff security

44. The crime rate continued to be relatively low in the country. During the reporting period, one break-in, at the offices of the World Health Organization, was reported.

XI. Progress on integration

45. The Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Field Support continued to collaborate closely during the period under review to ensure the smooth transition of UNOGBIS to UNIOGBIS, effective 1 January 2010. A technical task force comprising UNIOGBIS and United Nations country team staff was set up to address the substantive and operational aspects of integration, including technical and resources requirements, as well as issues related to common

services, office space and premises. A public information campaign, targeting officials, civil society organizations and the media, was launched in December 2009 to promote wider public understanding of the mission of the new integrated United Nations presence.

46. During the last quarter of 2009, preparations for the operational implementation of the new mandate were centred on policing and internal security matters within the wider context of security sector reform, a vital area that had not been fully addressed by UNOGBIS in the past because of a lack of technical and resource capacity. The United Nations standing police capacity has been assisting UNOGBIS since October 2009 and is now supporting the new Integrated Office in making available various strategic concepts, planning tools and essential regulations for internal and external purposes. This includes developing a strategic "concept of operation" and standard operating procedures for the UNIOGBIS police component of the Security Sector Reform Section, introducing to national counterparts a strategic reform framework for the policing and internal security aspects of security sector reform, initiating specific policing and internal security coordination mechanisms. It also includes implementing plans for a model police station programme nationwide, reviewing training strategies, establishing computerized learning capabilities and drafting a supplementary arrangement to the status of mission agreement on the reform of policing and internal security.

47. In order to ensure that the initial operational capabilities of the police component of the UNIOGBIS Security Sector Reform Section are reached by February 2010, an expedited selection and recruitment process for seconded international police officers will allow for at least 50 per cent of the police experts to be ready for deployment by the end of the first quarter of 2010. In January 2010, four standing police capacity experts were deployed to UNIOGBIS to support its Security Sector Reform Section.

48. The United Nations country team and UNOGBIS agreed on 23 December 2009 to develop and implement one integrated strategic framework, using the 2008-2012 United Nations Development Assistance Framework as a programmatic base and taking into account the UNIOGBIS mandate, the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau and the national priorities articulated in the poverty reduction strategy paper. The strategy document, to be finalized by the end of March 2010, will be developed and based on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework methodology and approach and will integrate both peacebuilding and national development priorities.

49. From 3 to 5 February 2010, a United Nations strategic planning retreat was held in Bissau to revise the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework, prepare the new integrated strategic framework and agree on its implementation and coordination structures. The retreat, which brought together the senior leadership of UNIOGBIS, the United Nations country team and representatives of the Government and international partners, reviewed progress in the implementation of the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework and agreed on the following four priority objectives and actions for implementation by the United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau for 2010: (a) promotion of the rule of law and security sector reform; (b) governance, democracy and political dialogue; (c) economic revitalization and poverty alleviation; and (d) the provision of basic social services and the protection of the

vulnerable. Under each of those priority areas, the United Nations system in Bissau has articulated specific outputs and indicators to measure progress.

XII. Observations

50. I am encouraged by President Sanha's and the Government's efforts to consolidate peace and promote stability in Guinea-Bissau. It is commendable that the Government has focused on the implementation of its programmes, which had been hampered by the various political and military crises that have faced Guinea-Bissau in the past decade and undermined its efforts towards economic recovery and development.

51. I also commend the Government for the important improvements in economic and fiscal management. It is encouraging that the Government has made economic and fiscal reform a national priority since economic recovery is a key component for any viable strategy to reduce instability. Recent developments signal a clear commitment and willingness on the part of international financial institutions, the Peacebuilding Commission and other international partners to collaborate with the Government of Guinea-Bissau. I am confident that continued progress, including in ongoing negotiations with IMF, will help Guinea-Bissau qualify for debt relief. I encourage the Government not to lose this momentum and to continue to work closely with its partners in order to reach the mutually agreed benchmarks.

52. Security sector reform remains the centrepiece of priority stabilization goals in Guinea-Bissau, and I am encouraged that the national authorities are taking measures to pave the way for creating the legal framework for the reforms. I urge national authorities and international partners not to lose sight of the holistic nature of security sector reform and to ensure that international assistance addresses not only defence sector needs but also the needs of the security and justice sectors. In these times of global financial crisis and competing priorities, I reiterate my earnest appeal to the international community to generously support the efforts of Guinea-Bissau to restructure and ensure the creation of a comprehensive security sector that is effective, financially sustainable and capable of meeting present and future challenges, including the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking. I particularly urge that generous contributions be made to the security sector pension scheme, once established.

53. The United Nations is expanding its efforts towards reforming policing and internal security in the country. I urge all partners to join forces with the United Nations to allow the international community to "deliver as one" in this critical area.

54. President Sanha's call for change towards a culture of positive peace to replace the polarization and divisiveness that have hampered efforts to heal and rebuild Guinea-Bissau society is encouraging. I urge the Government and the National Assembly to continue to foster synergies for national dialogue with Guinea-Bissau society as a whole in order to achieve genuine and lasting reconciliation. The proposed national conference being promoted by the National Assembly could serve as a solid and inclusive platform to work towards that end. The United Nations will continue to support ongoing preparations for the conference to help ensure its success.

55. As the authorities and people of Guinea-Bissau strive to create the conditions for sustainable peace and stability in their country, they will no doubt face challenges, some of them formidable for them to overcome on their own. Guinea-Bissau will therefore continue to need the goodwill and support of the international community to achieve its peace, security and development agenda. I urge the international community to continue its support of Guinea-Bissau. The recent reinforcement of the United Nations presence in the country symbolizes the readiness of the world body to stand with Guinea-Bissau and its people in their quest for sustainable peace consolidation, including, above all, respect for the rule of law and of the human rights of all citizens. I therefore look forward to a swift resolution of the issue concerning the former Navy Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto.

56. I should like to conclude by commending the staff of UNIOGBIS, under the leadership of my Special Representative, Joseph Mutaboba, as well as the personnel of the entire United Nations country team and other international partners, for the important work they continue to carry out in Guinea-Bissau.